

lower part of the body. Pedicle long, and much dilated at base. Colour light yellow. Found, in November 1867, attached to the intestinal canal of *Herbstia nodosa*.

The author remarks that the Sacculinidous parasite of *C. mœnas*, after getting rid of its ova, has a very transparent envelope of a light bluish colour. Through this the body of the parasite is visible, shifted to the upper part of the envelope, close to the buccal orifice and pedicle; it is opaque, and of a yellow colour. After a time the parasite dies, shrivels, and becomes detached, when its former position is indicated only by a chitinous ring. From this, flat squamous corneous pieces are seen to radiate towards the centre: these have denticulated margins; they leave at the centre an oval orifice, establishing the communication between the parasite and its victim. These parts are probably moveable, and may, by rising or sinking, alter the size of the orifice. In course of time all these traces of the presence of the parasite become obliterated.—*Ann. Sci. Nat. sér. 5. tome viii. pp. 377–381.*

*On the Calamites and Fossil Equiseta.*

By M. SCHIMPER.

M. Schimper has referred to the Equisetineæ of the Carboniferous, Triassic, and Jurassic periods, and has endeavoured to prove that the Calamites ought to have their place in that group of vascular Cryptogamia, not only because of the external and internal structure of the stem, but also because of their organs of fructification, which show a great analogy with those of the *Equiseta* of the present epoch. He has shown that the fossil spikes that were taken for spikes of Calamites, and which are remarkable for their great resemblance to the catkins of the Lycopodiaceæ, do not belong to the Calamites, but to *Annularia* and *Sphenophyllum*, fossil genera which establish the passage from the *Equiseta* to the Lycopodiaceæ.

M. Schimper has also proved, by means of some fine specimens and a number of drawings, that all the fossil trunks of the Bunter Sandstone, of the Keuper, and of the Rhætic strata, that had been designated under the names of Calamites, belong to the genus *Equisetum*.

The trunks of these gigantic *Equiseta* had a diameter of more than 12 centimetres and a height of from 8 to 10 metres; the branches which adorned the higher parts of them, in the form of a crown, were simple, and bore at their extremity a spike of the size of a pigeon's egg and organized exactly like the spikes of our living *Equiseta*. The subterranean rhizomes were well developed, and gave origin, like those of many of our *Equiseta*, to tubercles which had the form and size of a hen's egg.

According to M. Schimper, *Equisetum columnare* (Brongn.), of the Oolite of Scarborough, is specifically different from the homonymous species of the Keuper.—*Société d'Hist. Nat. de Strasbourg*, Feb. 5, 1868; *Bibl. Univ.* Aug. 15, 1868, *Bull. Sci.* pp. 325–326.